

LOS ANGELES TIMES
30 August 1975

Police Will Aid Senate Probe of CIA Activities

BY KENNETH REICH
Times Political Writer

The Los Angeles Police Commission has decided to cooperate to some extent with a request to provide details of LAPD intelligence operations and the names of its intelligence operatives. The request was made by the U.S. Senate committee investigating the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mariana Pfaelzer, a commission member, has been assigned to prepare a letter to the committee informing it that under certain conditions Los Angeles is prepared to cooperate in the investigation seeking to determine whether local police departments in various parts of the country have been used to perform CIA missions.

Police Chief Edward M. Davis had informed the committee in a letter Aug. 5 that it would be "a cold day in hell" before he would provide the information requested. After receiving this reply, the committee counsel decided to bypass Davis and write directly to the Police Commission.

Pfaelzer, discussing the commission's decision Friday, noted that in the original letter to Davis the committee counsel, Frederick A. O. Schwarz Jr., had given no specific reason for requesting the information and had not made clear that names of intelligence agents provided would be kept confidential.

She said that now that the committee's purpose has been revealed, the commission wants to "do as much as we can" to cooperate, within bounds of reasonableness and confidentiality of information provided.

Both Pfaelzer and commission President Sam Williams said that Davis is now amenable to providing some information. Pfaelzer added that she thought the police chief's Aug. 5 letter contained "regrettable language."

Apparently, the commission will adopt a procedure similar to that it has adopted in the matter of questions about the Robert F. Kennedy assassination case. In short, it will establish a committee of a police official and a commissioner, assisted by legal counsel, to respond to specific requests of the Senate committee.

A committee spokesman explained last week that the committee, headed by Sen. Frank Church (D-Ida.), is "trying to find out whether or not the United States has been developing a system of a national police department where local police departments act as small branches."

"This issue has to be resolved," the spokesman said. "Are local police being used by the CIA to get around limitations imposed on CIA activities?"

Pfaelzer, asked Friday for her view of recent controversy surrounding various statements made by the police chief, said she has found in her work on the commission that Davis is "generally pretty reasonable once he gets the first shot fired."

Nonetheless, she expressed concern that Davis, in his public statements, appears to "be going in a very calculated way towards something. What that is, I can't say."

The commissioner added, "If he gets to the point where he has made it impossible for us (in the commission) to do other than public relations work, then we'll have to deal with it . . . We may get to the point where we have a confrontation, but I don't want to get to that point unless it's necessary."

"I don't appreciate all this constant turmoil. The chief is causing it—to what end I don't know," she said.

STAT